Amendment of Weights and Mtasures Rules

5226. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to amend the weights and Measures rule for fair opportunities for foreign multinationals to invest in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor in this regard; and

(c) by when it is likely to be amended ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Public distribution outlets in Kalahandi District of Orissa

5227. SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) how many Revamped Public Distribution System outlets are located in Kalahandi district of Orissa;

(b) where those revamped public distribution system outlets are situated;

(c) whether all the specified items are meant to be supplied in the above scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The Government of Orissa has reported that six hundred ten Fair Price Shops (FPS) are functioning in the areas covered under Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) in undivided Kalahandi district in Orissa (335 FPS in Kalahandi district and 275 FPS in Nawapara district). In addition to these FPSs, distribution of PDS items are being made throngh four mobile vans covering fifteen haats and twenty seven important places in the RPDS areas in the district.

(b) These FPSs are located in areas covered under the RPDS in the district. Details regarding location of the FPS are not mantained by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Rice, wheat, levy sugar, kerosene oil are being distributed through these outlets. Government of Orissa has reported that steps are being taken to distribute iodised salt also in these areas.

Price Rise of Consumer Goods

5228: SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3609 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th April, 1994 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of consumer goods are on the rise since the last 3 months; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The Wholesale Price Index

Numbers of selected essential commodities and their percentage variation during the months of January, 1994. February, 1994 and March, 1994 are given in the enclosed statement. [*See* Appendix 170, Annexure No. 104].

(b) There have been various reasons for variations in the prices of wheat, rice and sugar during the last three months. These include the revision in the central issue prices of wheat, rice and sugar which was the result of higher Minimum Support Prices paid to the farmers. The prices of other commodities except groundnut oil have either declined or remained steady.

Distribution of surplus Coarse Grains under PDS

5229. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Distribution System will use the surplus coarse grains available with the farmers ;

(b) if so, what is the present offtake of coarse grains in the PDS system ;

(c) what step are being taken to increase the distribution of coarse grains through the public Distribution system; and

(d) whether Government have made any survey in this regard in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (d) Central Government procures coarse grains at minimum Support prices announced by the Government. Coarse grains such as jowar, bajra and maize procoured by the Central Government were alloted to a few States during 1993-94 and there has been very little offtake of coarse grains through the Public Distribution System. Central Government makes allocations of foodgrains including coarse grains and its offtake is dependent on a number of factors such as availability and prices of other varieties of grains and preferences of Consummers for particular varieties. However no specific survey in this regard was conducted in Andhra Pradesh.

Restriction on Advertisement Cost to check Price Rise

5230. SHRI O. P. KOHLI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any limit of money that can be spent on advertisements by the manufacturers producing consumer items in a year has been fixed by Government with a view to check the resultant prices of the consumer products;

(b) if so, the dertinls thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that there is a competition amonge thece producers of consumer items to give advertisements over the Doordarshan and ZEE TV one after the other to popularise their products and recovering some parts of that expenditure from the consumers in the shape of increasing the prices of their products; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to safeguard the interests of the consumers?